

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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AUSTIN BILL THAT PROMOTES SMALL BUSINESS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1822, a measure authored by State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson) that will give small businesses a say in government regulatory actions, is on its way to Gov. Mitch Daniels for final approval.

The House of Representatives previously passed this legislation in February. The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 49 - 0 this week.

House Bill 1822 works to minimize the burden of unnecessary or inappropriate regulations on small businesses by requiring a state agency intending to change or adopt a rule that may affect small businesses to provide an economic impact statement for the new rule. State agencies also will be required to explore alternative options that would have less of a negative impact on small businesses.

"I am absolutely delighted that House Bill 1822 will become law," said Austin. "This is a big step forward for small business in Indiana."

Small businesses will be encouraged to submit opinions regarding regulatory changes and to assess whether the change would have a negative impact. Suggestions for alternative regulatory methods will be encouraged as well. In addition, the Indiana Economic Development Council will have an opportunity to weigh in on these decisions.

According to Austin, House Bill 1822 will streamline the federal and state guidelines that small businesses must abide by and ensure that only the most pertinent guidelines will be put into place. Small businesses, by not having to comply with unnecessary or redundant guidelines, will save money and be able to reinvest into the business, encouraging economic growth.

"Our job as legislators is to do business for the people of Indiana," said Austin. "This will not only help small business owners, but will help all Hoosiers. House Bill 1822 will do wonders for Indiana's economy."

There are more than 445,000 small businesses in Indiana which are responsible for approximately 48 percent of the jobs in the state. The income from small business in Indiana amounts to close to \$11 billion per year.

House Bill 1822 now moves to the governor for final consideration on proposed rules prior to their adoption.